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Senate passes Sen. Hardiman's mobile-phone privacy bill

LANSING — Michigan residents would have greater protection in keeping their mobile-phone contact information private under legislation sponsored by Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, that passed the Senate today.

After months of hard work, Senate Bill 127 now heads to the House of Representatives for consideration. This bill would require that mobile-phone service providers receive written consent from their subscribers before listing them in a nationwide directory. Major mobile-phone service providers have discussed creating a directory of the more than 180 million cell-phone users.

Consumers have complained about creating such a directory because they don't want their numbers published and possibly used for telemarketing. Unknowingly, some mobile-phone users have consented to have their numbers included in a directory because their contracts include fine print that would include their number.

"Cell phone users should have the option to keep their contact information private," Hardiman said. "We have worked very hard on this legislation. To see it passed by the House and signed into law would be a win for cell phone users across the state."

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